Red Bird Drawing: Red-Tone Shading and Wing Contrast

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

A drawing uses light red on the breast and mid red on the wing, with soft edges on both. Does it meet the wing-contrast requirement? Explain.

Answer: It can meet the requirement only if the value difference is clearly visible at arm's length. Light red versus mid red is a valid cue, but soft edges on both sides remove the edge cue, so the value difference must carry the contrast alone.

Reason: The brief requires visible wing contrast, not a specific cue. A one-step value difference may be too subtle, so the drawer should test it and strengthen the wing value if the shapes merge.

Check: Squint at the drawing from about one meter; if the wing boundary disappears, the contrast is insufficient.

Task 2

A bird is shaded entirely in deep red, with the wing outlined in pencil but not shaded differently. Identify the problem and give one fix.

Answer: The wing has no tonal or edge contrast because the whole bird is one value. Fix by reserving deep red for the wing shadow side and using light or mid red on the breast, or by sharpening the wing edge while softening breast strokes.

Reason: Uniform deep red removes the value cue, and a pencil outline alone is too weak to satisfy visible contrast once red media is applied.

Check: Compare a breast swatch and a wing swatch side by side; they should differ in value, edge, or stroke direction.

Red Bird Drawing: Red-Tone Shading and Wing Contrast

Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

A perched bird has an 8 cm body oval and a 4 cm head circle. The wing covers about 6 cm of the body. Is the wing proportion plausible for a perched pose? Give a simple check.

Answer: A 6 cm wing on an 8 cm body covers about three-quarters of the body, which is larger than the hypothetical half-body example. It can still be plausible, but check that the wing does not hide the tail or feet.

Reason: The half-body figure is a hypothetical guide, not a rule. The real check is whether the perched pose remains readable and the wing shape stays separate from the body outline.

Check: Measure the wing length and body length on your paper; divide wing by body. If the result is near 0.75, confirm the tail and feet are still visible.

Task 4

A drawing uses a sharp wing edge and soft breast strokes, but the wing is the same mid red as the breast. Does the edge cue alone satisfy the brief? Justify with a check.

Answer: The edge cue alone can satisfy the brief if the sharp boundary remains visible at arm's length. However, same-value shapes often merge when red media is applied, so the drawer should test and add a one-step value difference if needed.

Reason: The rubric accepts edge sharpness as a valid contrast cue, but the contrast must survive viewing distance and media application.

Check: View at arm's length and squint; if the wing edge is still traceable, the cue works. If not, darken or lighten the wing by one defined red value.

Red Bird Drawing: Red-Tone Shading and Wing Contrast

Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Bird is clearly red and uses only the defined red-tone values for shading.
- [ ] Wing contrast against the breast is visible at arm's length through value, edge, or stroke direction.
- [ ] The chosen contrast cue is applied consistently along the whole breast-wing boundary.
- [ ] Perched pose is readable: body, head, tail, wing, and feet relate plausibly to the perch.
- [ ] Shading follows form in ordered passes rather than a single flat tone.
- [ ] Eye and beak use a dark neutral and do not compete with the red scheme.
- [ ] Valid alternatives, such as a lighter wing or different stroke direction, are accepted if consistent.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?